

**CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2006**

At 5:07 p.m. Temporary Chair Deborah Gordon called the meeting to order in the Second Floor Auditorium at the San Mateo Transit District Office.

Members Attending: Judith Christensen, Deborah Gordon, Marc Hershman, Tom Kasten, Linda Koelling, Irene O'Connell, Rosalie O'Mahony, and Jim Vreeland.

Staff/ Guests Attending: David Burruto (Speaker Pro Tem Leland Yee's Office), Richard Napier (C/CAG Executive Director), Brian Moura (Assistant City Manager – San Carlos), Walter Martone and Geoff Kline (C/CAG Staff), Jessica Sanfill (Assemblyman Mullin's Office), Sara Rosendahl (Senator Simitian's Office), and Wes Lujan and Chuck Cole – by conference call (Advocation).

1. Election of a Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion: To elect Deborah Gordon as Chair. O'Connell/Hershman, unanimous.

Motion: To elect Tom Kasten as Vice Chair. O'Connell/Hershman, unanimous.

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda.

Richard Napier and Tom Kastin reported on the passing of former Hillsborough Mayor and C/CAG Chairman Pat Kelly.

3. Approval of minutes from February 9, 2006.

Motion: To approve the minutes as presented. O'Connell/Hershman, unanimous.

4. Update from C/CAG's Lobbyist in Sacramento (via conference call).

Wes Lujan and Chuck Cole reported:

- a) Negotiations on an infrastructure bond for schools, levies, and water appear to be getting close to resolution. There is still concern over the charging of fees for water use.
- b) Negotiations on the bond for transportation infrastructure are not going as well. The Republicans are pushing for certain policy issues (CEQA exemptions, etc.) to be included as part of the approval of the bond, and the Democrats are resisting these changes.
- c) The deadline for approving a bond package bill has been extended by five days to late Monday (February 13th) in order to be placed on the June 2006 ballot.
- d) ACA 13, the bill that C/CAG is supporting, is currently designed to allow parcel taxes to be levied (or increased) to support flood control projects without having to get a two-thirds vote of the electorate. The original author of the bill had agreed to expand the bill to also include stormwater pollution prevention programs to be eligible for these taxes. It appears that this issue is now being tied to the passage

- of the infrastructure bonds. The Republicans are objecting to the relaxing of the voting requirements to increase a parcel tax.
- e) The Republicans are also very concerned that there will be numerous trailer bills that will be passed with a simple majority vote. These bills will detail how the bonds will be implemented, and will be controlled by the Democrats who already have a majority.
 - f) Assemblyman Ira Ruskin recently introduced a bill to halt any further studies/proposals to restore the Hetch-Hetchy Valley. C/CAG staff has been in contact with the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency and will be following the actions that this body recommends on this legislation.
 - g) Housing and land use: There are two bills that are being followed closely for C/CAG. SB 1800 will require local governments to adopt a housing opportunity plan. Assemblyman Gene Mullin has introduced AB 2503 that would authorize cities, counties, and cities and counties to enter into a joint powers agreement to form an affordable housing pooling arrangement for the acquisition, construction, or development of housing that is affordable to lower income families.
 - h) Eminent Domain: SB 120 would revise the definition of "predominantly urbanized" and revise the conditions that characterize a blighted area. The bill would prohibit the inclusion of nonblighted parcels in a redevelopment project area for the purpose of obtaining property tax revenue from the area without substantial justification for their inclusion. This bill appears to be gaining momentum as a way of partially addressing the eminent domain issue. The Howard Jarvis Association has announced that it will sponsor an initiative that will greatly restrict the use of eminent domain and will also end rent control.
 - i) Senator Simitian has introduced SB 1611 to allow all Congestion Management Agencies to levy a \$20 vehicle registration fee to support congestion management programs. It is modeled after C/CAG's AB 1546 program.

5. Transportation Infrastructure Bond.

Richard Napier reported:

- a) It appears clear that the Legislature is not going to allow Caltrans to be the final say on the selection of projects. It is likely that local and regional agencies will have an opportunity to propose projects to the California Transportation Commission, and that Board will make the allocations.

6. Update on telecommunications and local control issue.

Brian Moura reported:

- a) The League has passed its Telecommunications Framework that sets forth the principles that it will be advocating for in any telecommunications reform legislation.
- b) There are two bills that should be closely watched:
 - AB 2987 by Assemblymembers Levine and Nunez is a placeholder at this point, and is sponsored by the phone companies.
 - SB 850 by Senator Escutia was recently amended and has been sponsored by the phone companies. This bill allows the Cable Companies to get out of their current franchises. Senator Simitian sits on the Committee that is hearing this bill.

- The League's Telecommunications Principles should be supported by all local jurisdictions.
- At the national level there is talk of creating a national franchise agreement. Congresswoman Eshoo is on the Committee considering federal bills on this topic.
- The preferred approach by local jurisdictions is to create a model franchise agreement that can still be administered by local jurisdictions, instead of vesting this authority in the State or Federal governments.
- SAMCAT is developing a Request for Proposals for Countywide telecom services. Because it is covering such a large population base, it will hopefully create a good competitive situation where some of the larger providers will be interested in providing services.

Motion: To recommend that the C/CAG Board assign the two telecommunications bills to our lobbyist Advocacy to monitor for C/CAG. Vreeland/O'Connell, unanimous.

7. Consideration of positions on various bills:

- a) All mail ballot for the June 2006 Gubernatorial Primary (AB 707).

Motion: To recommend that the C/CAG Board support this bill on the condition that it be limited to the June 2006 Primary Election. Hershman/Koelling, approved with one abstention (Christensen).

- b) Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (SB 1225). After discussion it was decided to poll the cities to determine if the existing one-dollar vehicle registration fee is sufficient to cover the cost of their local programs.
- c) Restoration of the Hatch Hatch Valley (AB 2659). Staff was instructed to stay in contact with the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency and report back to the Committee on the actions that this body takes on this legislation.

8. Establish date and time for next meeting (April 13, 2006).

9. Other items/Comments from Guests.

David Burruto – continues to be optimistic that the Legislature and the Governor will reach a compromise on the infrastructure bond in time for the June 2006 election.

Richard Napier – the April 13th C/CAG meeting will be its annual retreat.

Tom Kasten – notified the Committee of the passing of former Hillsborough Councilman Pat Kelly. Mr. Kelly also had served as the Chairman of the C/CAG Board.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.